REVIEWED BY F Schmeltzer DATE 7/2/85
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SAUDI ARABIA, THE PLO AND TERRORISM

-- Saudi Arabia, in common with all of the Arab states, recognizes the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." In accord with the new Administration's heightened concern about international terrorism, this is a topic of concern for us. But Saudi support for the PLO needs to be carefully understood.

-- Saudi Arabia has been a leading supporter of those elements within the PLO who support a political rather than a military solution to the Palestinian problem. This is in line with Saudi interests, since the most extreme Palestinian elements advocate social revolution in the region.

-- This political approach is consistent with the Saudi Government position that it would be contrary to Saudi policy to provide support for terrorism (see Attached Saudi statement).

-- Saudi Arabia through the years has used its influence with the Palestinians to strengthen the hand of more moderate elements. The Saudis persistently have argued that the Palestinians should reject the use of international terrorism as a policy instrument and should, instead, seek their objectives through political means, including negotiations.

-- The Saudis were the primary force behind the Inter-Arab Agreement that brought the civil conflict in Lebanon to an end in late 1976. The Saudi organized mini-summit resulted

in the first ever Arab public condemnation of the Palestinians for challenging the legitimate Government of Lebanon.

-- In the past the Saudis have sought to persuade the PLO leadership to accept Security Council Resolution 242.